

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present Office action, claims 120-144 were examined. Claims 122-130 and 134-144 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 120, 121 and 131-133 were rejected. Claim 120 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions and suggestions. No new matter has been added. Claims 120-121 and 131-133 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner rejected claims 120-121 and 131-133 as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Specifically, the Examiner noted in claim 120, lines 6-7, the expression "extending from said composite profiled section" is not clear. Applicant has amended claim 120 to recite "extending from said basic profiled section". Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the Examiner's grounds for rejection with regard to claim 120.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 120-121 as being anticipated by either Japanese reference '434 or Scofield (U.S.

3,733,696). At the interview of October 15, 2003 with the Examiner, the Examiner provided Applicant's counsel with language to be added to claim 120. As the Examiner states in the Interview Summary "the Examiner proposes a claim amendment, which appears to be defined over the prior art of record. see attachment.". Applicant has herein amended claim 120 to contain the language suggested by the Examiner. As a result, claim 120 is now believed to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prior grounds for rejection are thusly traversed. As claims 121 and 131-133 depend upon claim 120, claims 121 and 131-133 are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

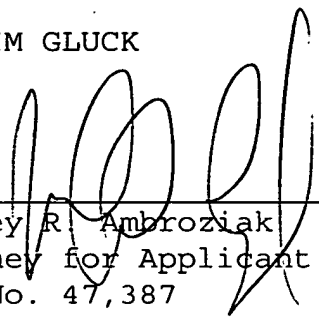
An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it  
is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit  
Account No. 02-0184.

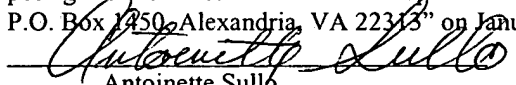
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 12, 2004

  
Antoinette Sullo